

**Bitterroot Job Service Employers Committee Meeting Minutes
November 21, 2006**

Present:

Mark Seitz, Citizens State Bank	Linda Valentine, HRC/WIA Youth
Cindy Beck, Albertson's	Vikki Bell, Ravalli County Bank
Pat Easley, Bitterroot Valley Chamber	Jess Lohse, Rocky Mountain Truss
Patti Furniss, Bitterroot JSWC	Vickie Steele, Bitterroot JSWC
Julie Foster, Ravalli County EDA	Deb Morris, Marcus Daly Memorial Hospital

VIDEO: Everyone viewed a video entitled "Managing the Generations" (recommended by Patti) while eating to open the luncheon meeting.

Introductions: Introductions were made with business affiliations.

Approval of October minutes: Motion was made and seconded to approve minutes from October 2006 meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Deb gave an updated treasury report. Current balance is \$4,356.98. She reported that the "Employee Fraud" seminar income was \$1,037.28 with \$134.50 in expenses.

Job Service Update:

1) Budget update: Patti gave a brief update on the current \$900,000 budget deficit for the entire state and said that more information would be forthcoming on budget reductions within our local office in Hamilton.

2) NBIA & Business Planning Classes: Patti shared information from the recent National Business Incubator training that she and Julie Foster attended in Denver on Entrepreneurship. In connection with that same topic, she asked Julie to give a report on the recent Business Planning classes which were held in our local office conference room. Julie said that there were four classes held on Wednesday evenings which covered various topics including Business Start Up, Cash Flow, Financing (both traditional and non-traditional) and Marketing. There were up to 14 in attendance throughout the four weeks and the response was so positive that they hope to sponsor classes again in the very near future.

3) Rick Maher: Patti gave everyone a flyer on the upcoming Rick Maher presentation in Helena on Nov. 29th in case anyone was interested in attending.

4) 2007 Job Fair update: Patti distributed current results from a recent survey developed by Elaine which was sent out for the purpose of receiving some feedback from both employers and job seekers as to what their specific needs are for 2007 and how/if the format of the Job Fair should be re-designed to meet those needs. She emphasized that whatever changes or reformatting needed will have to be set into motion right after the first of the year as this annual event requires at least two months of planning to be successful.

5) Soft Skills update: Patti reported that the Soft Skills classes are up and going again after a break during the summer months and talked about the success of the November classes. The December workshop is scheduled for Dec. 18-20.

6) Rapid Response Meeting: Patti gave an update on a recent Rapid Response meeting held at Stravina in Corvallis for all employees being affected by the upcoming business closure at the end of January 2007. Patti, Vickie and Elaine were in attendance from the BRJWC and offered information on unemployment, employment and training programs, and job placement services. Craig Davis from Project Challenge was also in attendance to provide information on their training program. She reported that there were approximately 50 employees at the meeting. Packets of all available resources were provided to them at this meeting.

7) Seminar updates: Vickie said she first wanted to recognize and congratulate Miss Kathleen (who is currently on leave) for doing such an incredible job of coordinating the recent seminar at the hospital. She then distributed evaluation results from the "Employee Fraud" seminar and reported there

were approximately 40 employers in attendance. Response from those who attended was very positive. Patti shared flyer information from Steve Beck on possible dates for further Customer Service training in March 2007. Deb said that there is a scheduling conflict with March 14th but that the two weeks following would be okay. Patti also distributed flyers from Wendy Samson for a possible future seminar on "Conquering the Giant...The Box Store Battle" for everyone to consider.

8) Committee Member Need: On a personal note, Patti told the committee that Tracy Klapwyk's (from Burton's Brand Source) 15-year-old son had been involved in a very serious car accident and is currently in a coma in a Great Falls hospital and Tracy is there with him. She expressed her desire that a card be circulated and possible cash donations be included to help offset Tracy's expenses since she is keeping vigil at his bedside and unable to work at this time. A motion was made and seconded for a \$100 donation be provided from the JSEC fund and others agreed to contribute personal donations as well. Patti will be coordinating those efforts and will email absent committee members about the request.

Meeting adjourned.